

Message Text

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SOFIA P&C PASS TO RICHMOND

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, HU

SUBJ: US-HUNGARIAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES

1. CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND DISCUSSED FUTURE OF US-HUNGARIAN EXCHANGES DURING CALLS NOVEMBER 18 AND 19 WITH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING POLGAR OF KKI, GONDA OF HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, JOZSEF BOGNAR OF INSTITUTE OF WORLD ECONOMY, DEPUTY RECTOR MADL OF EOTVOS LORAND UNIVERSITY, AND FRIGYES HORCHLER OF COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED NOT ON US-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT BUT RATHER ON WHAT THE TWO SIDES MIGHT DO TO EXPAND EXCHANGES PENDING NEGOTIATION AND CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT. HUNGARIAN ATTITUDE DURING ALL CALLS WAS POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT GUARDED, AND INDICATED THAT WE MAY LOOK FORWARD TO A MODEST EXPANSION OF ONGOING EXCHANGES AND INITIATION OF SOME NEW EXCHANGES.

2. POLGAR OF KKI, AT WORKING LUNCH, SAID THAT HUNGARY WAS PLEASED WITH ITS PARTICIPATION THUS FAR IN CU'S MULTIREGIONAL PROGRAMS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUED PARTICIPATION. HE ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN SUBJECT OF GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUAL HUNGARIANS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP), AND AGREED TO PROPOSAL

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FOR EXCHANGE WITH THE EMBASSY OF LISTS OF PROFESSIONAL

AREAS OF INTEREST TO BOTH US AND HUNGARY AS STARTING POINT FOR CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE. ON PERFORMING ARTS HE EXPRESSED GENERAL INTEREST IN RECEIVING US THEATER GROUP WHICH CU MAY BE SENDING TO USSR AND EE DURING 1975, AS WELL EXCHANGE OF THEATER DIRECTORS, PLAYWRIGHTS, ETC., AN ENCOURAGING SIGN ALTHOUGH KKI IS NOT THE AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN THIS FIELD. ON ENGLISH TEACHING AND AMERICAN LITERATURE, HE PROPOSED SHORT-TERM VISITS OF US LECTURERS FOR TWO-TO THREE-WEEK VISITS AT ONE OR MORE HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITIES. RE IREX ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM, POLGAR SAID HUNGARY WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE PROGRAM DESPITE THE DEAK AFFAIR. AT LATER MEETING HORCHLER HOPED THAT DEAK AFFAIR WOULD NOT STAND IN WAY OF IMPROVED US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. AT ALL CALLS, HUNGARIANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT A MAJOR INCREASE IN EXCHANGES WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON CONCLUSION OF US-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AND POLGAR ALSO STRESSED ITS LINKAGE TO PROGRESS ON SETTLEMENT OF OTHER ISSUES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. AT UNIVERSITY, DEPUTY RECTOR MADL SAID UNIVERSITY NOW HAD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO DIRECT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES AND THAT EOTVOS LORAND UNIVERSITY WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH "ONE OR TWO" AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, INVOLVING EXCHANGES OF LECTURERS OR RESEARCHERS.

4. BOGNAR EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS BETWEEN HIS INSTITUTE AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES IN TWO FIELDS. THE FIRST CONCERNS STUDIES OF US ECONOMY WHICH HE SAID WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO HUNGARY BECAUSE OF US LEADING POSITION. THE SECOND FIELD WOULD COVER WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES INCLUDING FOOD PRODUCTION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. IN THESE EXCHANGES BOGNAR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARS AT HIS INSTITUTE UNDER RECIPROCAL PROGRAM.
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